

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

My wife and I are both in our late sixties and retired. For two years we had Cingular cell phone service, until we found Tracfone and have been with them ever since. Cingular was too expensive for us and especially for a cell phone service that we purchase mostly for emergencies. I have had a heart attack, quadruple coronary bypass surgery and I am now being treated for prostate cancer. I take my cell phone with me every place that I go. With a cell phone for each of us, we still make less than five calls per month. Even now I frequently look for ways to reduce our total telephone bill. Our phone service is with three different companies because that is the least expensive way.

I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

Ernest Banks
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